

VALLEY GAY PRESS

SINCE 1998 - THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 3 APRIL 2006

The Lehigh Valley's Third Annual

PRIZM PROM

A Celebration for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allied (GLBTQA) Youth

Saturday, April 29 7 - 11 pm
For GLBT youth and their allies
Ages 14-20

HAVEN PRIZM PROM

Saturday, April 29 7 - 11 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center St., Bethlehem. Admission: \$10 in advance,
\$15 at the door. Refreshments served. Semi-formal (but not
a requirement). Sponsored by Haven and UUCLV -- 610-
868-2153 or www.prizmprom.com. For GLBT youth and
their allies, ages 14-20.

SWARTHMORE & LANSDOWNE GET RIGHTS

Two more PA municipalities
include sexual orientation
and gender identity in non-
discrimination ordinances
that cover employment,
housing and public
accommodation. The addition
of the towns of Lansdowne
and Swarthmore raises the
number of municipalities in PA
that have some form of
employment and housing
rights that include the GLBT
community, to 12.

MCCLV SEEKS ARTISTS & CRAFTERS

MCCLV Art & Craft Show May
13. Booths are available.
Email: helping.hands@mcclv.org to participate. Fund
raiser for MCCLV's
Appalachia mission trip.

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

PA-GALA SPRING EVENT

PA-GALA will hold its
annual Spring Fundraiser &
Candidate Mixer on
Thursday, April 20 at the
former Petros Restaurant,
at 1101 Hamilton Street -
5th Floor, from 7:30 pm -
9:30 pm. The funds raised
will support the work of PA-
GALA including the publi-
cation of Gay &
Lesbian Vote - Primary
2006 and the effort to
defeat the PA Anti-Marriage
A m e n d m e n t .
Refreshments include
Wine, Beer, Soda and light
hot & cold hors d'oeuvres.
State and Lehigh Valley
Elected Officials and
Candidates for Office will
be invited to meet and talk
with the LGBT Community.
Suggested donation: \$20
per person / \$35.00 per
couple. For more info or to
volunteer contact Steve
Black: 610-863-4961 or
pagala@epix.net.

PDN PHOTO PROJECT: FACING INEQUALITY FIGHTING TO KEEP THE CONSTITUTION FREE OF DISCRIMINATION

Photos of 100 local same-sex couples will serve to remind the
mainstream public of the discrimination and inequality our community
will experience if the proposed anti-same-sex relationship
amendments to the State and Federal Constitutions are successful.
There is still time for you to participate! See a sample of the 50
photos PDN has already taken, and read more
about the project on pages 3 and 7.

"COME TO OUR WINDOW!" JOIN PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK FOR THE MUSICFEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

PRE-CONCERT DINNER
IN A PRIVATE AIR-CONDITIONED
MUSICFEST DINNER TENT AND
SPECIAL VIP SEATS FOR THE



MELISSA ETHERIDGE

AUGUST 9 CONCERT!!!

DINNER TO BEGIN AT 6PM, CONCERT BEGINS AT 8PM

Yes, Pennsylvania Diversity Network has been asked by
MusicFest to host this special Melissa Etheridge Dinner & Concert
event, as a fund raiser for PDN's Photo Project - Facing Inequality
and other PDN programs. Ticket price: \$109, includes PDN's
private buffet dinner in an air conditioned tent, private air
conditioned restroom, cash bar, projected viewing of the PDN
Photo Project: Facing Inequality, support for the community, and a
VIP (near the front) ticket to the Melissa Etheridge Concert, plus
other surprises. Don't miss this once in a lifetime event!

**DON'T WAIT - THIS CONCERT WILL SELL OUT COMPLETELY!!!
TICKETS GO ON SALE:**

**CLUB MUSICFEST MEMBERS: APRIL 6
GENERAL PUBLIC: APRIL 12**

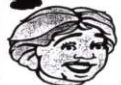
CALL THE MUSICFEST BOXOFFICE

610-332-FEST (3378)

REQUEST TICKETS FOR PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
"COME TO OUR WINDOW" DINNER

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK BEGINS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SEE PAGE 3

What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



What's going on with the Constitutional Amendment?

The PA Constitutional Amendment, which would ban any recognition of same-sex families in PA, including any Civil Union or Civil Domestic Partnership or "anything substantially similar," has passed through committee and is on its way to the State House floor for a vote. While in committee, a request by Democratic minority committee leader Babette Josephs for hearings, was ignored by Committee Chair Paul Clymer (R). Normally, when hearings are requested by the minority leader, they are granted. This is an unprecedented change to the state Constitution yet, the bill was passed without hearings, 15 to 13 - along party lines with only one Republican, Rep. David Steil, voting no.

Post-vote hearings were then held which could do nothing to influence passage. Only four speakers were allowed on each side. Of the four anti-gay speakers, one tried to suggest that the bill might not disallow Civil Unions, but the other anti-gay speakers insisted that it was carefully and purposely written to disallow any recognition, in any way, of same-sex relationships. The next step is a vote by the State House, then a vote by the State Senate. Before the legislation goes to the voters of the State, it must pass through the House and Senate again next year.

Not only will this legislation disallow same-sex marriage and Civil Union in PA, it threatens other legal recognitions for same-sex couples. It will nullify any partner benefits that municipal employees receive. It could effect adoption, even wills and powers of attorneys could be effected.

A hateful by-product of this Amendment will be the campaign to pass it. Mailings filled with hate language and lies about our community and commercials, bumper stickers, yard signs will all be used. For those who have never felt discrimination first hand, this will be very hard to bear.

See what you can do on page 7.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey Ruby Zebu, Donnie and Earl Snyder Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valleys Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of Pennsylvania Diversity Network VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The opinions expressed by columnists are their own and should not be attributed to this paper.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Allentown, 610.967.5219 [HTTP://www.eastern-papflag.org/](http://www.eastern-papflag.org/)

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater-- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)

-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449

Email: info@padiversity.org To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGPsome restrictions apply.

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I continue to set money aside, but we are concerned about our financial future. Can you offer us some guidance? **Signed, Wandering Aimlessly**

Dear Wandering, By consistently setting money aside, you're on the right track to achieving your goals. Let me offer a few ideas.

First, organize your credit card charge slips and receipts for deductible cash expenditures, paid medical bills, property tax bills and charitable contributions. Keep your monthly banking statements in one spot. Consider starting a new checkbook register at the beginning of every year. This will make it much easier to understand where your money is being spent on a yearly basis. If you are using financial software, print out a year-to-date record.

Each of your brokerage or mutual fund accounts should be set-aside in a separate folder, so you can organize your stock confirmations. You need be able to tell your accountant the cost basis and selling prices of your stock trades.

Consider banking on-line. Though this convenient service is expensive, it is very easy to access your bank accounts, 401k plans, mutual funds and mortgage payments on-line. It may prevent paying "nonsense" fees for bouncing a check. Otherwise, consider overdraft protection.

Do a complete inventory of your existing debt. Write down your credit card balances and know what rates the company is charging you. Focus on paying down the card with the highest rate of interest. Resist using home equity loans to pay off credit card debt. Do you really want to pay for your Key West vacation for the next 15-30 years?

Create a budget. Know where your money is being spent. Review your retirement assets. If you aren't already contributing to some sort of retirement plan, at least open an IRA for yourself. Take a look at how your investments have performed. Perhaps it is time to rebalance your portfolio.

Check your insurance coverages. Start with your homeowner's coverage. Review the contents of your home with your agent. Review your auto insurance and your life insurance. Rates have been dropping on term policies. It may make sense to review the coverage and the premiums you're paying.

Check your estate plan. Be sure your durable powers of attorney for health considerations are in order. Your financial durable power of attorney and your living will may also need to be updated.

Write down new goals for yourself and your family. If your goal is to make more money this year, set a target that is achievable and write down the steps you will take to make them happen. Have your partner or a friend understand what you are trying to accomplish, so they can help motivate you.

Finally, consider simplifying your life. Get rid of the clutter. Do you really need all of those things?

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub - 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar - 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's - 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop - N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Book & Gifts - 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

- Monthly Direct Mail Distribution-

Become a member of PA Diversity Network to get the Valley Gay Press mailed directly to your home. Send \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership to: PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002. There are 10 VGP issues per year.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153. HAVEN needs facilitators. Facilitator training provided.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Meeting Dates: Allentown: April 4, May 2, Monroe: April 19, May 17, Reading: April 18, May 16

GAY MEN'S CHORUS REHEARSES FOR CONCERT

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Adam P. Koch, rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM in preparation for "Valley Fried Pride," to be presented in June. LVGMC rehearses at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem PA. New members are welcome. For more information, contact the chorus at 610-366-3320 or visit <http://www.lvcmc.org>.

STEVIE Z

Fridays: April 7, May 5 & June 16 - Stevie Z performs at the MooseLounge in Allentown from 9PM-Midnite. Half of the tips go to a GLBT cause. No cover charge on Friday nights.

GLORA

GLORA, The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, organizes social events for LV GLBT singles and couples. Contact GLORA <http://glora.1colony.com> or email Gloria@dejazzed.com.

MCC GARAGE SALE

MCC Garage Sale, April 8 and 9 at MCCLV. Contact MCC to donate gently used items any time between now and the sale. Money raised will go to the Appalachia Service Project. For further information contact: The Helping Hands Ministry helping.hands@mcclv.org.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. During the cold months, GLOSS offers bowling, racquetball and Pinochle.

Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the former Rose Bowl (now the Playdrome) in Allentown. Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at members' homes. Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

THEATRE OUTLET SCHEDULE:

April 6-9: **Cloud Tectonics** by Jose Rivera. Directed by Matthew Earnest. In conjunction with Allentown Art Museum's Surrealism exhibit. May 12-28: **Men Of Clay** by Jeff Cohen. Regional Premiere! Award-winning playwright and director Jeff Cohen brings his "Best Of..." play to the Lehigh Valley. June 16-end of the month: **Swimming in the Shallows** by Adam Bock. Directed by Troy Dwyer. A homosexual adventure of epic proportions! Featuring John Molettress ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch"). Tickets: \$18, \$15, \$10 -- Tickets available online at www.theatreoutlet.org, or by calling 610-820-9440

PRIDE SEEKS ARTISTS FOR ART SHOW

GLV Pride seeks visual artists for the Pride Art Show and raffle at the festival on June 17. Artists may show and sell their work at the Pride festival art tent in exchange for a donation of art work to benefit Pride. Contact Rachel Thompson for details and to reserve display space. All media are welcome. 610-997-0976 or humanright4all@aol.com.

BUCKS LESBIAN CAMPING TRIP

Bucks County Lesbian Alliance 3rd Annual Spring Camping Trip, Tohickon Campground, Quakertown, PA. Date: Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7. Cost is 30.00 per site, per night, four adults per site. Reserve and pay by 3/25 to receive a 20% discount. Call the campground and make your own reservations. Sites 49-55 have water and electric hook ups - \$34 a night. Sites 57-62 are primitive sites - \$30 a night. Toll free: 1-866-536-CAMP (2267). Tell them you are with BCLA. For further information: nje32@yahoo.com.

19TH ST MOVIES

April and May Movies at the 19th St. Theatre in Allentown.

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS :

April 1-9

WHY WE FIGHT: April 8-16

TSOTSI: April 15-23

L'ENFANT: April 22-30

FRIENDS WITH MONEY: April 29 - May 7
ON A CLEAR DAY: May 6-13

PDN PHOTO SHOW & THEATRE OUTLET PLAY

The premier showing of PDN's Photo Project: Facing Inequality is set for June 24 at the Theatre Outlet as part of a PDN fund raiser that includes that night's presentation of the gay themed play, *Swimming in the Shallows*. See the Photo Exhibit, enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and attend this fabulous play. Admission for this special multi-part event is \$20 per person. Photo show opening begins at 7pm. Play begins at 8pm. Tickets available online at www.theatreoutlet.org, or by calling 610-820-9440. Call PDN at 610-432-5449 for information about the Photo Exhibit.

MCCLV CONCERT

Saturday, April 1 @ 2:00pm. Music from MCCLV's Praise & Glory Singers; I.C.E. with Tanya Erdman, Marjorie Fortin, & David Fortin; MCC Lancaster; Anthony Young & Lawrence Sarwono on the piano & organ. Music & Sermon by Rev. Delores Berry. Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction follows! For further info: fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

TO GET VGP

Direct mail 2006 subscriptions from PA Diversity Network of the Valley Gay Press have begun. Become a member of PA Diversity Network to receive VGP. Send \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership to PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902, Lehigh Valley, PA 18102.

CALENDAR

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APRIL 2006

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist
 Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at
 22nd and Tilghman Streets,
<http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA
 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see FACT
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical
 Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social
 Group - singles and couples social events
berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and
Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CHICOMAX.com- Informational website

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-
 432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist
 Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV,
uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Enigma Players - qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together
 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine - www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,
 <vgarant@glisn.com>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of
 Reading and Allentown www.gloria.1colony.com,
glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
 Society, www.gloss.org Info @ gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVENGLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV -
 call: 610-868-2153, email:
havenglbtgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship,
 Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931
 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family
 & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642
gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-
 HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office:
 610-432-5449 info @ padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE - GLBTAL group at the UUCLV,
 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com
www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
 email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org>
 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United
 Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-
 610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-
 814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church,
 Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street,
 Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccvl.org> 610-
 709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College
 Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB
 Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-
 767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449
www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh
 Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian
 Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying)
 P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-
 0227 www.pa-gala.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Through August 6th - Keith Haring Show @ Reading Art Museum		1 GLOSS VDIY MCC Concert 19th St. Movie
3 GLOSS MCC WDIY HMFF MCC Rev. Berry	3 RAA	4 LVGMC LV PFLAG Cloud @ TO	5 HAVEN	6 RAA GLOSS	7 StevieZ ROBERTA MEEK	8 GLOSS 19th St. Movie WDIY
9 MCC GLOSS WDIY HMFF MCC Garage Sale	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN	13 RAA GLOSS MCC Seder	14 GLOSS Bowling MCC He's Alive	15 WDIY MCC He's Alive 19th St. Movie
16 HMFF MCC WDIY MCC GLOSS Easter	17 RAA	18 R PFLAG LVGMC	19 M PFLAG HAVEN	20 P PFLAG GLOSS PA-GALA Candidate Mixer	21 Dance Theatre @ TO	22 WDIY GLOSS Men of Clay @ TO
23 WDIY HMFF MCC	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN	27 GLOSS RAA	28 HAVEN Prizm Prom 19th St. Movie	

MAY 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA 19th St. Movie	2 LVGMC LV PFLAG	3 HAVEN	4 GLOSS RAA	5 Lesbian Camping StevieZ	6 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
7 HMFF WDIY MCC	8 RAA	9 LVGMC	10 HAVEN	11 GLOSS RAA	12 GLOSS Bowling 19th St. Movie MCC ART Show	13 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
14 UUCV MCC GLOSS HMFF WDIY	15 RAA	16 R PFLAG Vote LVGMC	17 HAVEN M PFLAG	18 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	19	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCV	22 RAA	23 LVGMC	24 HAVEN	25 GLOSS RAA	26	27 WDIY GLOSS
28 WDIY UUCV MCC GLOSS	29 RAA	30 LVGMC	31 HAVEN			

JUNE 2006 PRIDE FESTIVAL JUNE 17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA GLOSS	2 MCC Fri. Nite Live	3 WDIY
4 GLOSS	5	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN	8 RAA GLOSS	9 GLOSS Bowling	10 GLOSS WDIY
11 WDIY GLOSS	12 RAA	13 LVGMC	14 HAVEN	15 GLOSS P PFLAG	16 StevieZ Swimming - TO Play	17 Pride Festival
18 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCV	19 RAA	20 R PFLAG LVGMC	21 HAVEN M PFLAG	22 RAA GLOSS	23	24 PDN Photo Show @ TO
25 GLOSS MCC UUCV	26 RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN	29 RAA GLOSS	30 MCC Coffee & Stories	

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of
 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
 Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-
 pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride
 Festival) 610-770-6200, e-mail:
 <info@prideglv.org>, www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance -
 www.lehigh.edu/~instupa/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route
 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.
 Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday &
 Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the
 Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:
 610-882-0558.

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
 Meets at MCLLV renlv.org

ReadingP-FLAG 610-967-5219

SafeSpace-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge
 St., Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt.
 Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424

Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,

VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee

Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY-88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This

Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610.810.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
PDN LETTER WRITING - 2ND TUES
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
PA-GALA - 1ST THURSDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS RACKETBALL-THURS & SAT
POKEY CIRCLE - FRIDAYS
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
COFFEE & STORIES - LAST FRI
GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 2ND SATS
GLOSS GAME NIGHTS - 3RD SATS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS

APR 1 - MCLLV CONCERT
APR 1-9 - HENDERSON@ 19TH STREET
APR 2 - DELORES BERRY @MCLLV
APR 4 - LY PFLAG
APR 4-6 - CLOUD TECTONICS@TO
APR 5 - MONROE PFLAG
APR 7 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
APR 8-16 - WHY WE FIGHT @19TH ST
APR 8-9 - MCLLV GARAGE SALE
APR 13 - MCLLV SEDER
APR 14-15 - MCCS 'HE'S ALIVE'
APR 15-23 - TSOTSI @ 19TH ST
APR 16 - EASTER SERVICE MCLLV
APR 18 - READING PFLAG
APR 19 - MONROE PFLAG
APR 20 - PA-CAL MIXER
APR 21-22 - DANCE THEATER @ TO
APR 28 - MEN OF CLAY @ TO
APR 29 - HAVEN PROM
APR 29-MAY 7 - MOVIE @ 19TH ST
MAY 7-7 LESBIAN CAMPING TRIP
MAY 5 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
MAY 6-13 - MOVIE @ 19TH ST
MAY 13-MCCATS SHOW
JUN 16 - STEVIEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
JUN 16 -31 - SWIMMING @ TO
JUN 17 - PRIDE IN THE PARK
JUN 17 - PRIDE ART SHOW
JUN 24 - PDN PHOTO SHOW@TO
AUG 9 - MELISSA ETHERIDGE

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

PRIDE LAUCHES NEW WEB SITE

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley (Pride GLV), organizers of the annual Pride in the Park celebration and The Rainbow Scholarship, announces the launch of its new website at www.prideglv.org.

The new website offers an interactive, online, searchable and shareable format. The resource directory also offers users the opportunity to rate the GLBTI friendliness and post a review for each listing.

In addition, Pride GLV is developing other services, including pride classified listings; a pride shop featuring assorted merchandise; information about Pride GLV and other community events; an enhanced photo gallery; national GLBTI headlines and news as well as information that helps support the Greater Lehigh Valley's other GLBTI service-oriented agencies and nonprofits. It is also easier to get involved with registration and participation forms available in a downloadable format. Volunteer interests, memberships and site feedback can be submitted through a secure online form. On the lighter side, the Pride Polls will survey site users monthly on a pride related topic of community interest.

**PDN S GRANT FUNDED MAILING
TO BERKS COUNTY
WILL BEGIN WITH THE JUNE VGP ISSUE.**

PRIDE IN THE PARK 2006 ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP ANNOUNCED

Pride in the Park 2006 will be Saturday, June 17 at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown, from 1 - 9pm. The celebration features leading gay and gay-friendly, local and national talent. All performances are free and seating is available under a covered stage tent. Funding for all performances is secured through festival sponsorship, ad and booth sales, and donations collected at the event. For more information contact Pride GLV at info@prideglv.org or 610-770-6200.

Host, Scotty the Blue Bunny:

www.scottybunny.com

Keyth Lawrence and The Purple Circle:

www.keythlawrence.com

Rachael Sage: www.rachelsage.com

Odd Girl Out: www.oddgirlout.net

Namoli Brennet: www.namolibrennet.com

Anthony Rodriguez and the Santa Luca

Dance Company

Justin Utley: www.justinutley.com

Headliner: Kim English, singing her hits

"Unspeakeable Joy," "Everyday" and more.

Pride GLV Monthly Meetings: At the Pride

Office at 1101 W. Hamilton St. Allentown

Board of Directors Meetings: Second

Monday of each month, 7pm

The Rainbow Scholarship Committee

Meetings and Pride in the Park Committee

Meetings -- Check: www.prideglv.org.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Brokeback gets Crashed

So Brokeback Mountain can win the Wyoming Film Festival (and every other award on the planet) but not an Academy Award for best picture?!? So maybe Hollywood isn't so liberal. Yeah, I know Ang Lee and Larry McMurtry got trophies but they'd been snubbed before and were overdue.

Don't get me wrong, Crash is a fine film, but even most critics believed it wasn't worthy of a nomination, let alone taking the gold. It's too preachy and too coincidental in its storytelling.

One theory Crash won is because it is set in LA and the majority of Academy voters are from the Los Angeles area or at least a more urban setting. That reasoning holds about a teaspoon of water, especially after listening to former Academy Award winner Ernest Borgnine declare he would never watch the film because the love between two cowboys would be too much to stomach and that "if John Wayne were alive he would be spinning in his grave." Not an easy feat. If John Wayne were alive why would he be in a grave? Sounds like Borgnine has lost his grip on reality and maybe should have his Academy membership revoked before he hurts himself. Or worse, someone else with more hateful remarks. If old rumors are true, maybe it's internalized homophobia.

Makes one wonder how many other Academy members, AKA voters, felt this way? Film historians cite Citizen Kane, Raging Bull and others that were overlooked for the big award. Like that's supposed to make us feel any better? This was our year.

And not to nit pick, but after seeing TransAmerica, Felicity Huffman should have won the award stolen by Reese Witherspoon who, don't get me wrong, did an excellent performance in Walk the Line. But showing up forty minutes in, it was really a supporting role.

Ms. Huffman was TransAmerica. There's not a scene without her. She really made me believe she was a pre-op M to F. But we knew going in that award was a long shot for our side of the scorecard. Brokeback was supposed to be a lock. So, yeah, I'm pissed.

A lot of people saw Brokeback, though. Conversations were started. Only time will tell if it has a lasting impact. The two times I saw the film the audience ranged from what looked to be high school age kids to heterosexual couples in their 60's and 70's. It has racked up over \$80 million at the box office and will undoubtedly be a best seller on DVD. So, while Marty (Borgnine's one award winning role - and only nomination) sits on the shelves collecting dust, Brokeback will be used to educate and build tolerance that no party Crashers can steal. That's the way I see it. Happy Spring, Steve



PLANET Parenthood

donniearluca@msn.com
by Earl and Donnie

Family Group Revisited

In a previous column we discussed the concept of an activity and support group for families made up of same-sex parents and their children. Because of our somewhat unique situation, we felt it would be beneficial to network and associate with other families like ours. Groups such as this already exist but an additional one can provide diversity. We can learn from each other and friendships can be made. When we last suggested this idea in our column, we got a small immediate response. And we continued to get responses.

More recently we have been connecting with quite a few families led by same-sex parents, both female and male. Some with multiple children, some with foster children, boys, girls, and even twins. We are realizing the numbers of these types of families appear to be growing locally. After all, the Lehigh Valley is a growing area. All types of families are moving here. So its time to revisit the concept of a family support and activity group for GLBT parents and their children.

The benefits of this type of group are substantial. There is the potential for so much information sharing on child raising, community involvement, school and church issues, relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and other children. There is the potential to have get-togethers for fun and fellowship, play time, and even learning. Learning from each other and each other's children.

These types of groups exist to celebrate the diversity of today's families and to provide an atmosphere of encouragement and positive growth to gay and lesbian parents and their children. Friendships and solidarity among the families, parents and children can result. We will each still be unique but not alone.

You can never have enough friends. If nothing else, the group will provide an avenue for friendships to be established. There's fun to be had by all involved.

A new group of interested same-sex parented families is coming together now. If your family would like to participate and be kept informed of the group and its planned activities, please email us at donniearluca@msn.com.

Oh, and we still need to come up with a name for our group. Please email us your ideas on that, too.

LESBIAN EVANGELIST: REV. DELORES BERRY VISITS MCCLV

Sunday April 2, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm worship services

MCCLV EASTER SERVICES AT THE CHURCH:

A celebration of the risen Christ, Sunday April 16, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm worship services.

MCCLV PRESENTS "HE'S ALIVE" :A dramatic presentation of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ -- Friday, April 14 & Saturday, April 15 7 pm.

MCCLV SEDER MEAL: Thursday April 13, 7 pm. For more information, contact MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or info@mcclv.org

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



From Russia (and NYC) with Love

That I am aware of, there are four bathhouses in Manhattan. Friends and well wishers have told me three of them are just "straight up sex houses." The fourth is a traditional old world sauna. Intrigued, I checked out the web site. The place opened in 1892. Sinatra relaxed there and John Belushi would unwind there after binges. So I went over to the East Village, Rent-Heads know the place, to East Tenth Street.

After climbing the stairs, I was greeted by Boris, one of the co-owners and I place all my valuables in a safety deposit box. There is an old feel to the place. Old men sit about in the deli in the front, talking in some foreign language.

I proceed to the men's changing room and take off all my clothes and put on a spa issued pair of boxer shorts only with no hole in front. The baths are co-ed five days a week and this is one of those days. Men wear boxers and women wear boxers and some kind of tank top bra and/or bikini. I wasn't sure (and not very interested.)

I descend a flight of stairs to a room with four doors leading to four other rooms, a small pool and a tiled bench. the sound of running water and people chatting echoes off the tiles and exposed pipes.

In an explorative mood, I checked out each room. The first is the Swedish steam room. Made of cedar, it's like saunas I have been to before. The second, located across the corridor, is the Turkish steam room. I smelled a whiff of eucalyptus. The third room is the steam room with no name and the last room, the largest, is the Russian sauna. For sauna connoisseurs there probably are some subtle differences in those rooms, but for me I couldn't breathe in any of them.

The Russian sauna room has its own big muscley attendants. The attendants like to give the patrons "Platza." Before you get excited, let me explain what that is. A patron lies face down on a bench. Because he would probably die of heat stroke before the process is over, the attendant soaks a towel in a bucket of water and makes a little tent over the patron's head. Then giant brushes, the bristles made of oak leaves, are dipped into a vat of warm soapy water. The attendant vigorously scrub-beats the patron all the while dousing himself with buckets of cold water. A tall attendant corners me and says "you like, you like?" It looked a little excruciating but I thought to myself "Oh Scott, just butch it up and do it. They've been doing this in Slavic countries for thousands of years." My masseuse from Belarus lays me down and starts to wait on me as hard as a person can with oak leaves. Not very hard granted, but still. He says this will open up my pores. Just don't open up my skin. I flip over and he cleans my front. Finally I am seated and he tells me to raise my arms and he finishes up. Not bad really. I step out of the Russian Sauna and the Russian attendants command me to go into the small pool. I jump in and discover the water is absolutely freezing. I think they pipe the water in from the Arctic Ocean. After spending the good part of an afternoon at the Russian Turkish Sauna, I was talked into buying the ten visit discount pass, so I know I will be back getting my pores as clean as a whistle.

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

LIZ OUT LOUD®

PDN PHOTO PROJECT: FACING INEQUALITY

Here's a small sample of the 100 people in committed same-sex relationships who have already lent their faces to the PDN Photo Project -- Facing Inequality. Our goal is at least 100 couples by the first public exhibition of the photos (Theatre Outlet on June 24 - see page 3). The photos serve to show that we exist and deserve equal rights. And show people like State Rep. Doug Reichley, who said to constituents, "The gay community hasn't really demonstrated they deserve marriage rights," that he's wrong.

Call 610-432-5449 to get your picture taken.

Next photo shoot: Saturday April 8, 3 to 6pm. Or call to arrange another time.

By Liz Bradbury

There are three reasons why conservatives have pushed this legislation.

#1 To take away our rights and keep our families from showing society that we are not so different from opposite sex families. #2 To deflect attention from the mistakes of the Bush administration. #3 To encourage far right voters to come out to vote against Rendell and for far right candidates.

What can you do? Support and donate to PA-GALA and other political groups fighting this Amendment. Write to your State Rep. and State Senator. Write letters to the editor. Be part of PDN's 100 Photo Project and vote.

And perhaps most importantly: Why did Rep. David Steil, a Republican who had not been supportive in the past, vote in committee against the Amendment? Because a member of his family came out to him. It's time for every GLBT person to come out and demand that friends and family oppose this Amendment. If institutions to which you belong support this Amendment, or are unwilling to speak against it, then stop supporting those institutions. If everyone were to do that...we could beat this.



Justin Lee & Adrian Anchondo
Teacher Actor
Together: 6 years



Phil Healing & Kindall Goble
Contractor Control Systems Engineer
Together: 13 years



Laura J. Marie & Mary Ellen Elizabeth
Home Health Caregiver Retail Bakery
Together: 19 years



J.F. Ellstrom & John H. Hulbert
Travel Agent Retired
Together: 47 years



L. Kyle Walker & Mary Sue Bridi
Physician Physical Therapist
Together: 10 years



Viliah Morcisllo & Carmen Ocasio
(With Denial of Marriage License Form)
Together: 11 months



Ron Smith & Lawrence Sarwono
Financial Consultant Software Developer
Together: 4 years



Gerald R. Schndt Jr. & Charles Woodbury Jr.
Bartender Bartender
Together: 17 years



Tim Hare & David Ball
Architect Hspit Dir. of Pastoral Care
Together: 30 years



Charlene Bergstresser & Robin Koch
Nursing Administrator RN
Together: 14 years



Melissa Eberts & Kristy Swope
Tech Support Machine Operator
Together: 8 years



J. Renae Bennett & Chris Boes
Application Chemist College Professor
Together: 13 years

JOIN PDN'S NEW LETTER WRITING GROUP

You know how you're always meaning to write a letter to the editor? Did you know that the Letters Section is the second most read part of the paper, after only the front page? PA Diversity Network has begun a new Letter to the Editor Writing Group on the second Tuesdays of each month, come to the PDN offices, enjoy some pizza and write a letter or two. Share ideas, get pointers. For directions: 610-432-5449, or info@padiversity.org. The next letter writing get-together is April 11, from 6 to 9pm. Drop in!



By Patricia Sullivan

POP QUIZ

8

1. ____ was the most recent US state to pass employment rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A. WA B. CT D. ND E. NH

2. There are now a total of ____ PA municipalities that extend rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A. 5 B. 8 C. 12 D. 15

3. Which of these PA cities do not offer any protection from discrimination? A. Bethlehem B. Easton C. Reading D. Stroudsburg

4. T or F: Though leaders of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade used the day to say intolerant things about Irish gay men and lesbians, Ireland now offers same-sex couples most of the legal recognitions married couples have.

5. Discharging troops under the Pentagon's policy on gays has cost about ____ million over the last 10 years, according to a report from the University of California. A. \$30 B. \$157 C. \$220 D. \$363

6. Rosie & Kelly's cruise ship company is called ____ Family: A. R B. Our C. Your D. Rainbow

7. The PTA had a hearing on Eagleswood NJ Elementary School transgender substitute, 71-year-old Lily McBeth, to determine if she could continue teaching after her gender reassignment. The PTA voted 4 to 1 to: A. Fire her B. Allow her to return

8. A West Virginia police chief stopped a man from giving a dying gay heart attack victim CPR because he said the victim was HIV positive. The ACLU added that: A. the victim was not HIV positive B. HIV cannot be transmitted via CPR C. there has never been a case of CPR - HIV transmission D. the Chief is being sued.

9. Openly lesbian tennis player Amelie ____ has risen to No. 1 seed in the world. A. Pierce B. Davenport C. Mauresma D. Petrova

10. Boyzone's ____ Gately is the latest gay star to take advantage of new UK civil partnership laws by wedding his boyfriend in London.

A. Mikey B. Ronan C. Shane D. Keith E. Stephen

1. A 2. C 3. ABCD 4. T 5. D 6. A 7. B 8. ABCD 9. C 10. D

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"The Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse," by Mabel Maney, Cleis, \$9.95

Here's what it would have been like if Carolyn Keene had written Nancy Drew stories set in a 1950's gay and lesbian world, where the all the unattractive people were far right heterosexual bigots and all the heroes were GLBT. Read this series of three hilarious books that match nurse Cherry Aimless with Nancy Clue, discovering mysteries in caves, convents and under the sheets, when you need to escape. The Hardy boys even make a flaming appearance in the third book. Funny, even if you haven't read the old series, but best if you have.

JOIN PDN'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR WRITING GROUP -- SEE PAGE 7

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Raskalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"We are disappointed that the Committee voted to immediately move the bill forward despite the acknowledgement by Republican and Democratic Committee members, including the chair, that public hearings are needed." -- said Stacey Sobel, of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

QUOTE #2

"Constitutional amendments, once passed, are with us for a long time. We owe it to the voters to flesh out all the implications of this bill before we send it to them for approval, and we can't do that properly now that we have already voted." -- State Rep. Babette Josephs

QUOTE #3

"The 15-13 vote by the State Government Committee was ill-advised and unnecessary. It also comes across as mean-spirited." -- Morning Call Editors on the Constitutional Amendment to ban recognition of same-sex families

QUOTE #4

At hearings in Maryland, Republican Senator Nancy Jacobs said: "Mr. Raskin, my Bible says marriage is only between a man and a woman. What do you have to say about that?"

Jamie Raskin, professor of law at AU replied: "Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You did not place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible." (The room erupted into applause.)

QUOTE #5

"...As we toasted the love (the newly weds) felt for each other ... I asked to add an additional toast. Raising my glass I said, 'To Love, may it be legal and honored for all.' Each one, (heterosexuals all!) in that moment of silence, felt our sadness at being denied this 'right', then each raised their glass and shouted --To Love, may it be legal for all!" -- Local Letter to the Editor by Sandy Riley

QUOTE #6

"Take 'unpatriotic' and shove it. How dare they do this to our country? 'Unpatriotic'? These people have ruined the American military! Not to mention the economy, the middle class, and our reputation in the world. Everything they touch turns to dirt, including Medicare prescription drugs and hurricane relief." -- Columnist Molly Ivins on -right-wingers

Distelfink © 4/06
by Ruby Zebu

From Dale Parkhurst
& Anthony Young's
MCC NFTMD Couple's Moment

Dale: We pray for George W. Bush, Karl Rove and other members of our current administration.
Anth: We pray for Rick Santorum, Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Laura.

Dale: We pray for Jerry Falwell, James Dobson and Fred Phelps.

Anth: May God bless you. Dale: May God direct you.
Anth: May God lead you...

Dale: ...and may all your grandchildren be gay
Anth: Amen

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.